

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L FLORENCE 0221

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJ: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS ELECT TUSCAN REGIONAL SECRETARY

REF: (A) FLORENCE 0175, (B) FLORENCE 0153

1. GIORGIO GORI WAS ELECTED REGIONAL SECRETARY OF THE TUSCAN DC AFTER A PROLONGED AND CONFUSED SERIES OF MEETINGS OF 60-MEMBER REGIONAL COMMITTEE. GORI WAS SUPPORTED BY THE DAF (DOROTEL, ANDREOTTIANI, FANFANIANI) WHO GAVE HIM 26 VOTES. HIS OPPONENT WAS SUPPORTED BY THE PRO-ZACCAGNINI FORCES AND RECEIVED 18 VOTES. THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE EITHER WERE ABSENT OR ABSTAINED.

2. GORI IS 48 AND HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE DC SINCE 1948. A FANFANIANO, CLOSE TO EXITING REGIONAL SECRETARY BUTINI, GORI HOLDS 2 SOTTO-GOVERNO POSTS IN HIS HOME TOWN OF POSTOIA (OFFICER IN PISTOIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND A DIRECTOR OF LOCAL HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION). HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE TUSCAN DC COMMITTEE SINCE 1970 AND FROM 1970 TO 1975 WAS A MEMBER OF THE PISTOIA PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY.

3. THE MANNER IN WHICH THE VICTORY WAS ACCOMPLISHED AND
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THE SELECTION OF A FANFANIANO HAS LEFT A CERTAIN AMOUNT

OF DISCONTENT AMONG THE DC LEFT. THE DEFEATED CANDIDATE INDICATED THAT THE VICTORY WAS ONE OF CONSERVATIVE FORCES AND SHOWED A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF STRATEGY. ANOTHER SPOKESMAN OF THE DC LEFT STATED THAT THE LEFT WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE POSTS OPEN TO THEM WITHIN THE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT BUT WOULD GO INTO OPPOSITION, WHICH HE STATED IS THE BEST PLACE TO WORK FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE PARTY IN TUSCANY.

4. SPECULATION THAT THE ELECTION WAS A TEMPORARY SOLUTION TO AN UNDERLYING FIGHT FOR CONTROL OF THE PARTY WAS REINFORCED WHEN GORI ANNOUNCED THAT HIS POSITION AS REGIONAL SECRETARY WAS QUOTE TRANSITIONAL UNQUOTE AND WOULD BE OF SHORT DURATION. (NOTE THAT GORI WAS ELECTED BY A MINORITY OF THOSE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE.)

5. COMMENT: UNFORTUNATELY THIS ACRIMONIOUS BATTLE SHOWS THE DC AT ITS WORST, FIGHTING FOR A PLACE AT THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE WHILE THE SHIP IS SINKING. EX-SECRETARY BUTINI WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN SOME OF THE MANEUVERING THAT RESULTED IN THE ELECTION OF HIS FRIEND GORI. BUTINI HIMSELF IS IN SOME DIFFICULTY IN TRYING TO OBTAIN HIS PARTY'S NOMINATION FOR PARLIAMENT DUE TO HIS INVOLVEMENT IN AN INVESTIGATION CHARGING HIM WITH GRAFT AND EXTORTION (REFTEL B). SPECULATION IS THAT BUTINI, IN WORKING TO SECURE GORI'S ELECTION, WAS DOING MORE THAN HELPING A FRIEND.
GORDON

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